

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1064

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

COURTS: Provides relative to a domestic violence intervention court pilot program in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:842.5, relative to establishing the Domestic Violence Intervention Court
3 Pilot Program within the Nineteenth Judicial District Court; to provide for legislative
4 findings and intent; to provide for the creation of a post-adjudication Domestic
5 Violence Intervention Court within the Nineteenth Judicial District Court; to provide
6 for eligibility criteria and participant requirements; to provide for services to victims;
7 to require the use of a coordinated team by the court; to provide for data collection;
8 to provide for reporting requirements; to provide for the sunset of the pilot program;
9 and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 13:842.5 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §842.5. Domestic Violence Intervention Court Pilot Program; Nineteenth Judicial
13 District Court

14 A. The legislature hereby finds and declares that domestic violence remains
15 a significant public safety and public health issue in this state. Traditional
16 sentencing models have not sufficiently reduced recidivism among domestic
17 violence offenders. Evidence-based intervention courts that combine judicial
18 supervision with treatment, accountability, and victim safety planning have
19 demonstrated improved outcomes. Post-adjudication domestic violence courts
20 promote victim safety, offender accountability, reduced recidivism, and coordinated

1 community response. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to establish a
2 two-year pilot Domestic Violence Intervention Court within the Nineteenth Judicial
3 District Court to evaluate effectiveness and to determine feasibility for a statewide
4 expansion.

5 B.(1) This Section establishes a two-year pilot program known as the
6 Domestic Violence Intervention Court, referred to in this Section as the "DVIC",
7 within the Nineteenth Judicial District Court.

8 (2) The DVIC shall operate as a post-adjudication specialty court for eligible
9 defendants convicted of misdemeanor or felony offenses including but not limited
10 to second degree battery, aggravated battery, and other domestic abuse-related
11 offenses.

12 (3) Participation in the program is voluntary. A defendant may consult with
13 legal counsel prior to entering a guilty plea and being sentenced to the DVIC.
14 Participation shall be ordered as a special condition of probation to be completed in
15 addition to all other conditions of probation in accordance with Code of Criminal
16 Procedure Articles 893 et seq. Participants shall be subject to the supervision and
17 authority of the DVIC presiding judge. The presiding judge may, at any time during
18 the probationary period, impose additional conditions of probation as authorized by
19 Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 893 et seq. Final eligibility shall be determined
20 by the presiding judge of the DVIC.

21 C.(1) Eligible participants shall include defendants who meet all of the
22 following criteria:

23 (a) Convicted of domestic abuse-related offenses.

24 (b) Assessed as at-risk of reoffending using validated risk assessment tools.

25 (c) Who voluntarily consent to program participation.

26 (2) Participants shall do all of the following:

27 (a) Appear regularly before the court.

28 (b) Comply with individualized case plans.

29 (c) Be subject to graduated sanctions and incentives.

- 1 D.(1) The DVIC shall provide all of the following:
- 2 (a) Batterer intervention programming that includes the following
- 3 components:
- 4 (i) A nationally recognized, evidence-based, cognitive behavioral therapy
- 5 model specifically designed for domestic abuse.
- 6 (ii) The Stop, Take a step back, Observe, Proceed mindfully (STOP)
- 7 technique for screening, trauma-informed assessment, and cognitive behavioral
- 8 restructuring.
- 9 (b) Clinical assessment and individualized treatment planning.
- 10 (c) Substance abuse screening and referral when appropriate.
- 11 (d) Mental health screening and referral.
- 12 (e) Employment readiness assistance.
- 13 (f) Housing and transportation assistance.
- 14 (g) Case management services, including compliance monitoring and
- 15 coordination with probation.
- 16 E.(1)(a) Nothing in this Section shall be construed as requiring a victim's
- 17 participation in the DVIC. All services are voluntary and available to the victim
- 18 regardless of participation status. The rights and services available to victims are in
- 19 addition to those rights as defined in R.S. 46:1844 et seq. The DVIC shall prioritize
- 20 victim safety in all phases of participation.
- 21 (2) Victims participating in the DVIC shall be provided with the following
- 22 services and protections:
- 23 (a) A victim services advocate prior to a defendant entering the DVIC to
- 24 assist with representation, services, and other assistance as required by the victim.
- 25 (b) Notification of all court proceedings and compliance statuses.
- 26 (c) Attendance of the victim services advocate at court proceedings to
- 27 provide information if the victim is unable or unwilling to attend in person, but
- 28 wishes to have matters addressed by the court.

1 (d) Safety planning information and referrals to community-based
2 organizations.

3 (e) Information regarding local domestic violence shelters.

4 (f) Trauma-informed support services.

5 (g) An award of restitution, when applicable.

6 (h) Authorization to request GPS monitoring of the defendant, when
7 applicable.

8 F. The DVIC shall operate with a coordinated team, including but not limited
9 to the following:

10 (1) The presiding judge.

11 (2) The district attorney.

12 (3) The public defender.

13 (4) A probation officer.

14 (5) A clinical provider.

15 (6) A program coordinator.

16 (7) A case manager.

17 (8) A victim services advocate.

18 G.(1) The program shall collect data including all of the following:

19 (i) Recidivism rates.

20 (ii) Program completion rates.

21 (iii) Compliance with protective orders.

22 (iv) Victim safety indicators.

23 (2) An independent evaluator shall conduct annual and final evaluations.

24 (3) A report shall be submitted to the legislature and the Louisiana Supreme
25 Court at the conclusion of the two-year pilot program.

26 H. The pilot program authorized by this Section shall be effective for a
27 period of two years unless extended by the legislature.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 1064 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Freiberg

Abstract: Establishes the Domestic Violence Intervention Court Pilot Program in the 19th JDC.

Proposed law provides for the findings and intentions of the legislature regarding domestic violence and the need for a domestic violence intervention court.

Proposed law establishes a two-year pilot program known as the "Domestic Violence Intervention Court" (DVIC) within the 19th JDC.

Proposed law provides that the program is voluntary for defendants convicted of misdemeanor or felony offenses. Further provides that participants will be supervised by the presiding judge, that their participation will be added as a condition to probation and that the participants must regularly appear in court, comply with case plans, and be subject to graduated sanctions and incentives.

Proposed law requires the DVIC to provide batterer intervention programs, clinical assessment and individualized treatment planning, substance abuse and mental health screening, as well as employment readiness, housing, and transportation assistance, and case management services.

Proposed law authorizes domestic violence victims to voluntarily participate in the DVIC. Requires that victims receive a victim services advocate, notification of court proceedings, compliance statuses of the defendant, and information pertaining to safety planning and referrals, local domestic violence shelters, trauma-informed support groups, as well as attendance of the victim services advocate at court hearings. Proposed law authorizes a victim to request GPS monitoring of the defendant. Further authorizes the victim to be awarded restitution, when appropriate.

Proposed law requires the DVIC to operate with a coordinated team that includes the presiding judge, the district attorney, the public defender, a probation officer, clinical provider, program coordinator, and victim services advocate.

Proposed law requires the DVIC to collect data on recidivism rates, program completion rates, compliance with protective orders, and victim safety indicators. Further requires a report to the legislature and the La. Supreme Court upon the conclusion of the two-year pilot program.

Proposed law provides for the termination of the pilot program at the end of two years unless the legislature extends the program.

(Adds R.S. 13:842.5)